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Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2022

WELSH BIRDS RARITIES COMMITTEE

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Editor: Jon Green

Front cover photo:
Tennessee Warbler on Skokholm by R. Brown

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Introduction

This is the twenty second annual report of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC), formerly the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce bird species in Wales in 2022. The table below summarises the number of scarce and rare birds recorded in Wales over the past ten years in terms of their historical occurrence:

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2022	3	4	9	10	36	36	78	176
2021	2	7	8	21	15	16	62	131
2020	1	5	3	15	16	37	72	149

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new British Ornithologists Union (BOU) British List (2022) and includes all those records assessed by the WBRC along with those accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders for all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WBRC welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence, but this ideally should be accompanied by a written description. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other bird species to assess from County Recorders and Editors - these are not detailed in this report.

WBRC would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders, Reg Thorpe, Phil Bristow and everyone else who has helped in the assessment process.

Rare and scarce bird species (assessed by WBRC) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. WBRC consider species with an average of < 5 records per year over the previous 10 years. To be removed from the list of species considered by WBRC there has to have been an average of >5 per year in the previous 10 years with 5, or more, in 5 of those years and a combined total of more than 100 individuals. Any taxon that meets, or is close to, these criteria, will be considered for removal. The committee will also consider other factors such as population trends, distribution changes and ID issues. On occasions, if the rarity of a species increases, BBRC takes over assessment of species previously considered by WBRC.

As of 1st January 2022 the full list of species which WBRC considers is as follows:

Taiga Bean Goose	Tundra Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck	Surf Scoter	Smew	Alpine Swift
Corn Crake	Spotted Crake	Crane	Red-necked Grebe
Stone-Curlew	Black-winged Stilt	American Golden Plover	Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Yellowlegs	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
White-billed Diver	Wilson's Petrel	Cory's Shearwater	Great Shearwater
White Stork	Glossy Ibis	Night Heron	Purple Heron
Golden Eagle	White-tailed Eagle	Montagu's Harrier	Black Kite
Rough-legged Buzzard	Bee-eater	Red-footed Falcon	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Golden Oriole	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark
Red-rumped Swallow	Greenish Warbler	Arctic Warbler	Dusky Warbler
Radde's Warbler	Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler	Marsh Warbler	Blyth's Reed Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling
Nightingale	Bluethroat	Red-flanked Bluetail	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Penduline Tit	Citrine Wagtail	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin
Common Redpoll	Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting
Cirl Bunting	Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting

As of 1st January 2023, Ring-necked Duck, Glossy Ibis, Crane, White Stork and Rose-coloured Starling will no longer require descriptions, as they are to drop off WBRC list.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (i.e. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some cases the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WBRC welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms, but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submissions of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, *British Birds* 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WBRC will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WBRC would like to receive submissions are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*	Black-tailed Godwit – *limosa*	Bar-tailed Godwit – *tamyrensis*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*	Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*	Coal Tit – *ater*
Lesser Whitethroat – *blythi*	Robin – *rubecula*	Dunnock - *modularis*
Jackdaw – *monedula*	Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*	Redpolls – *islandica / rostrata*
Snow Bunting – *nivialis*		

Any subspecies not on the Welsh List and which doesn't meet the BBRC criteria as a rare subspecies should also be submitted to WBRC.

The report follows the format introduced last year and that printed in The Birds of Wales (Pritchard *et al,* 2021). Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases, the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases in improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras. Status comments have come from The Birds of Wales and the main references of rarities and scarcities in the UK come from BBRC report (Bacon *et al* 2022) and *British Birds* report on scarce migrant birds in Britain (White & Kehoe 2020).

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his / her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of seven voting members, in 2022 they were: Steve Stansfield, Bardsey (Chairman), Richard Brown – Skokholm & Pembrokeshire, Steve Culley – Anglesey, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon Murray – E & W Glamorgan, Paul Roberts E. Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfon and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green -Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. Potential candidates are proposed by County Recorders and anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WBRC Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WBRC species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WBRC description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WBRC Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs in electronic form at welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk

As of August 2021, results of circulation are posted on X / twitter: http://mobile.twitter.com/_wbrc

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for further information are found in Appendix I

Systematic list of accepted records in 2022

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* *Gwydd yr Eira*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

The status in Wales of Snow Goose had been confusing due to the presence of escaped individuals and the difficulties in assessing the likelihood of individuals from the UK Category C populations reaching Wales.

Flint: RSPB Burton Mere and Dee Estuary Saltmarsh, 30 Jan – 2 Feb (Twitter, A. Wallbank).

BirdGuides consider this individual as the same individual that was present with Pink-footed Goose in Lancashire on 17 Jan 2022 and then again from 9 Feb and remained there until 20 Apr 2022. Article on its occurrence on p125.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris* *Gŵydd Lafur y Twndra*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
16	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	9	4	0

Breeds on tundra, from Norway eastwards through Siberia. Birds of the subspecies *A.s. rossicus* breed west of the Taymyr Peninsula and winter in eastern and central Europe. The European winter population numbers c.300,000 and during severe cold weather, birds move west into The Netherlands and eastern England, but it is very rare in Wales.

Ceredigion: Two, Tanybwlch, Aberystwyth 28 Dec 2021 until 1 Jan. 2022 (J. Turner *et al*).
Gwent: Goldcliff, 25 Jan – 11 Feb (A. Dowson *et al*). Presumed returning individual from previous winter.

As with all goose species, there is the possibility that these birds may relate to escaped geese. However, their arrival and departure dates appear to be in line with others in the UK and therefore the Panel assumed them to be of wild origin.

Blue-winged Teal *Spatula discors* *Corhwyaden Asgell-las*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
11	1	0	2	0	2	1	2	2	1	0

Breeds across North America, and winters from the southern USA to northern South America. It is a very rare visitor to Wales with only ten records, including eleven individuals.

2020 Caernarfon:
Male, Spinnies, Aber Ogwen, 30 Mar (S. Ransome, photo right).

First record for **Caernarfon**, the others coming from **Anglesey** (3), **Flint (**4), **Carmarthen (**2) and **Pembroke** (1).

Black Duck *Anas rubripes* *Hwyaden Ddu America*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1

Breeds in eastern North America from Labrador to North Carolina and west to Manitoba. Most are resident or disperse locally in winter, but those breeding in the north migrate to the coast or lakes in the eastern USA. It is a very rare visitor to Wales, with only five accepted records.

Gower: Male, Llanrhidian 20 - 21 Dec (B. Stewart).

The previous four records came from Abergwyngregyn, **Caernarfon** 1979-1985, Heathfield Gravel Pits, **Pembroke** 2001, Marloes Mere, **Pembroke 2**008 and on the Conwy Estuary, **Caernarfon / Denbigh** 2010.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis* *Corhwyaden Asgell-werdd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
48	0	0	2	2	5	6	21	10	1	1

Breeds in North America, winters from southern US south to Argentina. Regular vagrant to Britain. Rare vagrant to Wales with a total of 48 accepted records, all of males.

Anglesey: Male, Inland Sea, 3 & 20 Dec (N. Troups *et al*).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris* *Hwyaden Dorchog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-9	2020 -21	2022
82	0	0	2	2	8	7	19	14	16	14

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica. Due to the number of individuals being recorded in Wales in the last few years, it has become impossible to track new / returning individuals and the species is no longer thought of as a scarce bird in Wales. This species will drop off the WBRC list as of 1st January 2023.

Anglesey: Male, Llyn Cefni, 18 Mar (D. Wright).
Eclipse male, Llyn Penrhyn, 22 July – 14 Aug (J. Oates, photo M. Jones, S. Culley *et al*).

Carmarthen: Male, Talley, 9 – 18 Oct (G. Harper), then Llyn Pencarreg 19 Oct (L. Gravatt), then back and forth between the two into 2023.
Female, Llyn Pencarreg 9 Dec on and off until the end of the year (L. Gravatt), then at Talley into 2023 with the male above.
1CY male, Llyn Pencarreg, 25 Oct – 1 Nov (L. Gravatt).

Denbigh: Male, Llyn Brenig, 4 Mar (B. Myerscough), same individual as at Llyn Tegid, Meirionnydd.

E. Glam: 2CY female Cardiff Bay / Cosmeston Lakes / Lisvane Res., from 26 Oct 2021 present until 19 Apr 2022, returning to the same area, 12 Oct, until the end of the year (P. Bristow *et al).* 2CY, Lisvane Res, then Cardiff Bay and Cosmeston from 21 Nov 2021 until 19 April 2022 (D. Westbrook, G. Stamp *et al*), returning 16 Oct, until end of the year (P. Bristow, N. McNeil-Watson *et al*).
Female, Llwyn on Res., 22 Jan – 1 Feb (M. Meehan).
Male, Kenfig NNR 22 Dec 2021 until 10 Mar (N. Donaghy *et al*).

Gower: Male, Eglwys Nunydd Res., 1 Jan (M. Powell *et al)*, 25 & 27 Feb. 1 & 4 Mar (Rob Jones), presumed same as at Kenfig.
Two males & four females, Margam Open Cast, 3 Feb – 16 Apr (NP Roberts *et al*).

Gwent: Male, Ynysfro Res., 5 Nov onwards until 2023 (D. Spittle *et al*).

Pembroke: Male, Rosebush Res., 23 Jan – 13 Feb & 4 Mar (B. Southern, P. Grennard *et al*).
Male, Rosebush Res., 12 Nov (A. Rees), possibly returning bird, as above.

Meirionnydd: Returning male, Llyn Tegid, 23 Jan – 11 Feb (J. Shrimpton *et al*), returning 16 Nov – 29 Jan 2023 (J. Dustow, photo A. Jones).

Photo above of the six at Margam, the largest group ever recorded in Wales, by NP Roberts.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis* *Hwyaden Benddu Fechan*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	2			1

Breeds from central Alaska through eastern Canada to Hudson Bay and south to Wyoming in the USA. It winters along both coastlines of North America, as well as Central America and the Caribbean. A rare visitor to Wales with only nine records.

Gower: 2CY female, Eglwys Nunydd Res., 29 Mar – 26 Apr (Rob Jones *et al*), photo opposite.

Third record for the site, with previous records in 2010 (returning the following year) and 2015.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata* *Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
83	0	0	0	4	16	15	15	24	2	7

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Caernarfon: Male, Criccieth, 19 Nov (S. Hugheston-Roberts *et al*).

Carmarthen: Three males and at least one female (possibly two), Gilman Point, Pendine, Carmarthen Bay 16 Jan – 16 Mar (L. Gravett, T. Phelps *et al*).

Denbigh: Presumed returning male, Pensarn – Old Colwyn from 4 Oct 2021 into 2022, with three males there (two of which are presumed new birds) 24 Mar (M. Hughes, R. Sandham).
Presumed returning two males, Pensarn – Old Colwyn, from 25 Nov onwards (R. Sandham).

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* *Gwennol Ddu'r Alpau*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
49	4	2	6	5	10	9	6	3	1	3

Breeds discontinuously around the Mediterranean, Turkey and east as far as the Himalayas.

Gwent: Goldcliff, 12 Apr (P. Bristow).

Pembroke: Skokholm, 22 Apr (G. Eagle), photo opposite.

Elegug (Stack) Rocks, Castlemartin, 3 July (B & A Haycock *et al*, photo S. Levy).

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* *Coblyn Gwelw*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
6	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	1

Breeds in southern Europe and North Africa, and eastward through the Middle East to Pakistan. The southernmost populations are resident, while others are medium-distance migrants. Most winter in the Sahel area of Africa, but some remain in southern Europe in winter. A very rare visitor to Wales, with only five previous records.

Ceredigion: RSPB Ynyshir 26 Oct (T. Kistruck).

Previous records have come from **Pembroke** (3) and **Carmarthen & Gwent.**
Although there was only one accepted record in 2022, there were numerous reports of "swifts" (either Common or Pallid) in late October / early November that were not specifically identified: for instance, there were at least four such reports in E**. Glamorgan** alone. An unprecedented influx of swifts occurred in Britain and north-east Europe in late autumn 2022 and where birds were identified the overwhelming majority proved to be Pallids. The **Ceredigion** bird was part of that influx, though from the other reports of either / or birds, it seems likely that the number of Pallid Swifts in Wales last autumn was far greater.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* *Rhegen Fraith*

Total 1967 - 2022	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
123	12	31	21	26	17	14	1	1

Breeds across western Europe and more abundantly across eastern Europe and temperate Asia as far as Kazakhstan and northwest China.

Ceredigion: RSPB Ynyshir, 21 Aug (Rus. Jones).

Corncrake *Crex crex* *Rhegen yr yd*

Total 1967-2022	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
169	26	75	8	33	9	16	1	1

Since 1967, when the Welsh Bird Report began, a total of approximately 167 breeding and passage birds have been recorded in Wales. Passage peaks are in April/May, as breeding birds make their way north to Scotland, and in September as adults and juveniles disperse south to Africa.

Pembroke: Skokholm 19 Sept (C. Baker, R. Brown), photo opposite by R. Brown.

Correction to previous report:
2015 Anglesey: 25-30 May Penmon Priory (not Dulas, as previously printed).

Common Crane *Grus grus* *Garan*

Total	1900- 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
55	1	1	2	5	9	6	15	13	3	0

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in Southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa. Individuals from the Somerset re-introduction scheme have been reported on many occasions in South Wales since the scheme began, not just the attempted breeding in **E. Glamorgan & Gwent,** with only individuals that are thought to be of wild origin are included in the table above. Totals in the table above have been corrected since the publication of The Birds of Wales, as two records in **Pembroke** in 1978 have now been linked together as one mobile bird. There were no records of presumed wild birds in Wales this year.

Correction to 2021 report:
2021 Gower & Carmarthen: Pembrey, Carmarthen 3 Apr (B. Beck), seen flying from Whiteford Point, Gower.

Due to the ever-expanding UK re-introduced population, it is impossible to distinguish genuine wild birds and therefore this species will drop off the WBRC list as of 1st January 2023.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* *Hirgoes Adeinddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
23	1	2	2	0	4	6	2	3	0	3

The nominate subspecies is found in central and southern Europe, Central and southern Asia and Africa. It is a scarce but increasing migrant to Britain and has bred on several occasions in England. While the number of records has increased dramatically in England, from an average of six a year in the 1990s to 26 in the 2010s, there has been no such increase in Wales.

Anglesey: female, Cors Ddyga, 17 Apr (N. Matthews, photo below left).

Carmarthen: Male, WWT Penclacwydd, 11 – 16 Apr (K. Fifield *et al*), photo below right by J. Davis.

Gwent: One, Goldcliff Point 10 May (C. Constance, G. Vella).

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* *Corgwtiad Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
25	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	10	3	1

Another long-distance migrant, the American Golden Plover breeds on costal tundra from extreme NE Siberia, east across N Alaska and Canada to Baffin Island. It migrates over the western Atlantic to wintering grounds in southern South America.

Anglesey: Adult, Cemlyn, 31 Aug – 23 Sept (A. Davies *et al*, photos below, left by M. Jones, right RI Thorpe).

2012 Anglesey: correction to 2012 report, an adult (not 1CY, as previously printed), Malltraeth Cobb 5 Sept (P. Brierley, per County Recorder).
2006 Anglesey: additional dates to those printed in 2006 report, a 1st summer, Cemlyn, 17 Apr – 8 May (A. White, RI Thorpe *et al*).

Two 1CY American Golden Plovers were claimed from Llanrhystud, **Ceredigion** in October. Initially only photos were assessed, as no descriptions were submitted to the Committee. Both were accepted and then the identification of one of the individuals was questioned and this led to both birds being reassessed by WBRC. Further details and brief descriptions were then supplied by one of the principal observers. Ex-BBRC members commented on the submissions and then WBRC re-assessed the record, deeming both Not Proven.

This record highlights the problem of photo-only submissions where the photos are not of a quality to show the key features to identify the species unequivocally. In this case WBRC considered that some of the photos showed a plover resembling AGP, but they did not consider the images, individually or in combination, sufficient to confirm identification as key features could not be discerned adequately. In combination with this the photos of the second individual, which observers considered to be very similar to the first except in extent of the ear covert pattern, were less convincing as AGP and this contributed to undermining confidence in whether the first individual was being portrayed accurately in the photos.

All submissions of rare and scarce species should ideally contain written descriptions of the bird(s) and details of the circumstances. If photos are the main element of a submission details of the circumstances and comments on how accurately the photos portray the structure and plumage become extremely helpful during assessment by WBRC.

If any observers of the 2 plovers at Llanrhystyd have additional photos/descriptions, or comments on these birds, WBRC would welcome submission of these.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* *Cwtiad Caint*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
50	4	3	3	10	8	5	9	6	0	2

Formerly bred in Britain but now occurs only as a scarce migrant, presently assessed by BBRC.

E. Glamorgan: 2CY+ female, Kenfig 1 - 2 June (N. Donaghy *et al*, photo below left).
Gower: 2CY+ female, Margam 1 June (Rob Jones), presumed as above.
Gwent: 1CY+ Goldcliff 30 Apr (T & N Chinnick, J. Lawton, D. Spittle), photo below right by G. Vella).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica tamyrensis* *Rhostog Gynffonfraith*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

2021 Ceredigion: One trapped & ringed RSPB Ynyshir, 8 Oct (AV Cross) subsequently seen at Zira Iwik, Mauritania on 30 Nov 2022 (T. Oortwijn).

This Bar-tailed Godwit caught in autumn at Ynys-hir was seen over a year later wintering in Mauritania. A study (Duijns *et al* 2012) showed that only "0.8% of (colour) ringed birds that were recovered and/or re-sighted on the wintering grounds in Europe or West-Africa made a change between the two supposed wintering areas ". Based on this <99% probability WBRC accepted the record and *Limosa lapponica tamyrensis* is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

Reference: Duijns S., Jukema J., Spaans B., van Horssen P. & Piersma T. (2012). Revisiting the proposed leap-frog migration of Bar-tailed Godwits along the East-Atlantic Flyway. Ardea 100: 37–43.

Knot *Calidris canutus canutus* *Pibydd yr Aber*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

2020 Ceredigion: one trapped and colour-ringed Ynyslas, Borth 2 Sept 2020 (AV Cross *et al*), subsequently seen Ebel Kheaiznaya, Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania, 27 Nov – 13 Dec 2021.

Although small numbers of the Siberian *Cc canutus* are thought to pass through the south-east UK regularly, on their way to Mauretania, all Knot recorded in Wales prior to this record were recorded as *C c islandica*. It occurred at a time when there were good numbers of juvenile Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), also from Siberia, on the west coasts of the UK. The bird's identity was confirmed based on its wintering location. During the annual Red Knot Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) Expedition to Mauretania it was recorded at Ebel Kheaiznaya, Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania on 27, 28 and 29 November and again on 13 December 2021 far south of the known wintering range of *islandica.*

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temmincki* *Pibydd Temminck*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-9	2010-9	2020-21	2022
66	3	1	4	3	9	10	15	15	3	3

The Temminck's Stint, which breeds from northern Scandinavia eastwards across northern Siberia and winters in west and central Africa and south Asia, is a regular but rare passage migrant to Wales.

Gwent: Three, Goldcliff 15 – 16 May (D. Watson, P. Marshall, M. Powell, photo L. Gregory).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Calidris subruficollis* *Pibydd Bronllwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-1	2022
76	0	0	1	10	20	7	10	21	5	2

Breeds in the High Arctic of Alaska and northwest Canada, and in the far east of Siberia, migrating overland to winter in northern Argentina and Uruguay (HBW). There has been a large increase in the numbers recorded in Britain over the last 50 years, increasing from an average of 15 a year in the period 1990-99, to 41 a year in 2010-19 (White and Kehoe 2020a). Numbers have also increased in Wales, where it may be the commonest trans-Atlantic wader, since many of the Pectoral Sandpipers reaching Britain are thought to breed in Western Siberia.

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 4 Sept (S. Hugheston-Roberts, photo below left by M. Jones).
Caernarfon: Dinas Dinlle, 24 Sept – 8 Oct (S. Hugheston-Roberts *et al*, photo below right by M. Jones).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* *Pibydd Cain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
152	0	2	15	22	23	14	34	32	5	5

Breeds in eastern Siberia and northern North America, and winters in southern South America, southeast Australia and New Zealand.

Carmarthen: WWT Penclacwydd, 24 Sept (C. Ryland, B. Beck, photo L. Gravatt). Llyn Trawsfynydd
Meirionnydd: 29 Apr – 2 May (A. Goodwin *et al*), photo below left.
Pembroke: Skokholm, 2 June (R. Brown, photo below right). Newport, 20 July (C. Ryland). Dale Airfield, 8 - 9 Sept (DJ Astins).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scalopaceus* *Giach Gylfinhir*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
22	0	0	1	1	3	3	6	7	0	1

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia. In North America, its range is restricted to the coastal tundra of western and northern Alaska and to the east in Canada. They winter on the coast of southern USA and northern South America.

Caernarfon: 1CY, trapped & ringed, Aber Ogwen 9 Oct (S. Dodd *et al*, photo left), seen at Glan y Mor Elias saltmarsh, Llanfairfechan 18th Oct and then Morfa Madryn 22nd to 26th Oct (from Birdguides). Photo right by J. Tragen.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor* *Llydandroed Wilson*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
14	0	2	1	2	2	6	0	0	1	0

Breeds from interior western Canada south to California and east to the Great Lakes area. Most birds winter in western and southern South America.

2021 Flint: 1CY+ RSPB Burton Mere, 21 - 23 Sept (per Flint recorder), mainly on the English side of the border. First Welsh record since 1998.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* *Llydandroed Gyfgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
71	12	10	9	4	5	3	12	12	2	2

Pelagic during non-breeding season. Breeds northern Europe. A rare breeder in northern Scotland.

Anglesey: Llyn Coron, 10 – 13 Sept (W. Williams).

Caernarfon & Meirionnydd: Glaslyn, 7 Sept (E. Lewis, photo right).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes* *Melyngoes Bach*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
28	0	1	3	2	2	2	6	10	1	1

Lesser Yellowlegs breeds in northern North America and winters from the USA south to southern South America. Dropped off BBRC's list onto WBRC's as of 1st January 2019.

Ceredigion: RSPB Ynyshir, 10 May (Ru. Jones, M. Carter, D. Anning).

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus Philadelphia* *Gwylan Bonaparte*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
31	1	0	0	0	2	5	7	11	3	2

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

Carmarthen: 3CY+, Sandy Water Park, Llanelli, 27 Apr (D. Davidson *et al,* per County Recorder), photo below left by G. Harper.

E. Glamorgan: Returning bird, now 3CY, Cardiff Bay 29 Jan – 13 Mar (photo A. Bevan, GN Smith *et al*), also seen at Cosmeston Lakes 9 & 12 Mar. Photo below right by P. Howlett. 6CY+, returning bird, Cardiff Bay 23 Apr (photo A. Bevan, P. Bristow, GN Smith).

Pembroke: 1CY Llys y fran Res., 25 Nov (B. Southern).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* *Gwylan Caspia*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	9	4

Resident in much of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. It also seasonally breeds from the Black Sea, across the north of the Caspian Sea to eastern Kazakhstan, and on the central Asian steppes. More recently the species appears to be spreading westwards in Europe and now breeds in small numbers in The Netherlands. Wintering grounds include the coast of south-west Asia (breeders from the steppes), the north-west coast of Africa, and around the Arabian Peninsula up to north-west India.

Denbigh: 1CY Gresford Flash, 27 Dec (K. Smith).

E. Glamorgan: 2CY Cardiff Bay 14 Jan-11 Mar (AG. Stamp *et al*). 1CY Cardiff Bay, 21 August (AG Stamp *et al*)

Pembroke: Adult, Gann 23 - 26 Dec (DJ Astins *et al*).

A 2CY individual at Newport, Gwent 20 Jan was deemed Not Proven by the Committee as they felt that the bird was probably a hybrid. Similarly, another 2CY bird at Cardiff Bay, E. Glamorgan, 21 Nov onwards was withdrawn by the observers as they too though it was probably a hybrid. A claimed adult, videoed at Cardiff Bay 8 Nov, was also deemed Not Proven as key ID features (namely the primaries and legs) could not be seen in the evidence provided. A second adult was reported at the Gann during the time the bird above was present, but no photographs were available for assessment and therefore this second bird was deemed Not Proven.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* *Mor-wennol Gawraidd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
14	0	0	1	2	3	3	1	1	2	1

This global seabird breeds on five continents, but in Europe is limited to the north coast of the Black Sea and the coasts of the northern Baltic Sea. The latter population winters in West Africa, as far south as the Gulf of Guinea. A total of 331 were recorded in Britain up to the end of 2020, about five a year on average over the last 30 years (Holt *et al.* 2021). There have been just 12 in Wales, all between 11 April and 6 August, except for one record off Bardsey in October.

Gwent: 3CY+, West Pill, Undy, 14 July (HL Jones).

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* *Corswennol Adeinwen*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
45	3	1	4	14	3	9	4	6	0	1

This species breeds mainly inland, on freshwater lakes and marshes in eastern Europe and Siberia. He Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, mostly south of the Sahara.

Anglesey: 1CY, Cemlyn, 4 Sept (S. Hugheston-Roberts *et al*). Photos by M. Caygill.

Pacific Diver *Gavia pacifica* *Trochydd y Mor Tawel*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

Breeds across Canada and Alaska and in northeast Siberia and winters in the Pacific Ocean, as far south as northern Mexico.

Gower: 1CY, Eglwys Nunydd Res, 11 Dec 2021 until 27 Feb 2022 (Rob Jones *et al*), photo right by Rob Jones.

The only previous record was of a 2CY at Llys y fran Res, **Pembroke** 16 Jan – 11 Feb 2008, returning there 25-26 Feb 2009.

Wilson's Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* *Pedtryn Drycin Wilson*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
18	0	0	0	0	2	7	4	0	1	4

Regarded as one of the world's most abundant seabirds, with a population of 4 – 10 million breeding pairs. It breeds on islands in the southern hemisphere. Outside the breeding season it occurs in all of the world's oceans.

Pembroke: Three, Celtic Deep pelagic, 19 Aug (DJ Astins *et al*, photo right). Strumble Head, 19 Aug (G. Mee, A. Rogers, L. Gravatt).

All the previous Welsh records have been from Pembroke, either off Strumble Head or at sea in the Celtic Deep.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis* *Aderyn Drycin Cory*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
124	0	0	1	3	29	41	25	17	3	5

Breeds on Berlengas Islands (West Portugal) west to the Azores and south to the Canary Islands. It is pelagic outside the breeding season, most often seen off British and Irish coasts in late summer. Cory's Shearwaters are scarce passage migrants off the Welsh coast. The similar Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* which breeds on Mediterranean Islands and Cape Verde Shearwater *Calonectris edwardsii* from the Cape Verde Islands have never been recorded in Wales.

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 29 July (RI Thorpe). Point Lynas, 1 Sept (T. Gravatt). Strumble Head 25 July (A. Rogers, per L. Gravatt).

Pembroke: Skokholm, 25 July (R. Brown, G. Eagle). Skokholm, 20 Aug (L. Marriner).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* *Aderyn Drycin Mawr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020 -21	2022
294	0	1	3	5	51	111	61	57	4	1

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic. Pelagic during non-breeding season, completing clockwise migration around Atlantic Ocean occurring in British and Irish waters mainly during late summer and early autumn.

Pembroke: Celtic Deep pelagic, 24 Aug (T. Green *et al*).

Barolo Shearwater *Puffinus baroli* *Aderyn Drycin Barolo*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
13	0	0	0	0	7	1	4	1	0	0

Breeding range restricted to warmer waters of Madeira, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands and the Azores. Outside the breeding season found at sea near breeding sites within North Atlantic. BBRC have reviewed the records of this species, with several previously accepted records now deemed not proven. All accepted records have been attributed to Barolo Shearwater.

2015 Pembroke: 1CY+, off Strumble Head, 31 Aug (R. Stonier).
2000 Pembroke: 1CY+ birds, off Strumble Head, 1 Sept (C. Benson, RH Davies, R. Stonier), 18 Sept (GH Rees), 25 Oct (PR Murray, SC Murray, GH Rees), 30 Oct (GH REES).

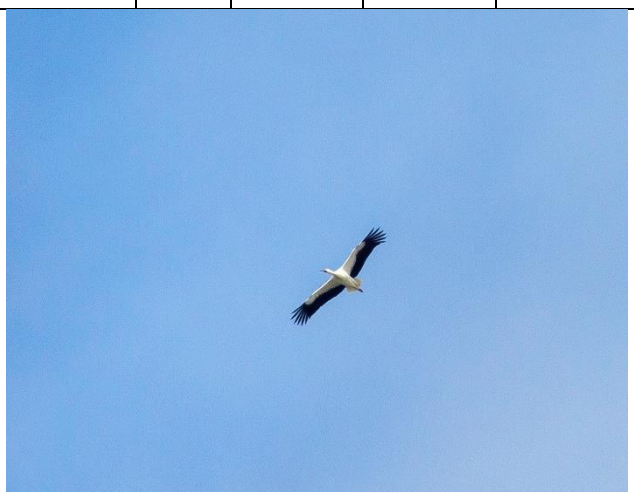
Accepted records from previous years - of singles unless stated:
1981 male, held territory on Skomer, Pembroke 26 June - 10 July, returning 21 June – 25 July 1982. 1984 off Strumble Head, Pembroke21 Sept.
1987 two off South Stack, Anglesey 15 Sept.
1988 off Strumble Head, Pembroke 7 Oct (possibly the same individual as below).
1988 off Bardsey, Caernarfon 7 Oct.
1989 off Strumble Head, Pembroke 5 Nov.
1997 off Strumble Head, 12 Sept.

White Stork *Ciconia Ciconia* *Ciconia Gwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
76	3	0	0	12	14	8	12	25	1	1

Migrant in warmer boreal to warm temperate zones, Russia, China and central Europe. WBRC has decided, for this year, that unringed individuals are probably wild birds, while ringed ones are not. One record of a presumed wild bird.

Flint: One over Queensferry, 27 Mar (D. Winnard, photo).



As with Crane, with so many re-introduced individuals present in the UK, it is almost impossible to determine whether individuals are genuinely wild or not. Therefore, this species will drop off WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2023.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* *Crymanbig Ddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
174	12	1	0	1	1	1	27	86	20	25

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East. Increasing records in UK linked with recent range expansion northwards. Added to WBRC list as of January 2013 but due to the increasing number of individuals being seen in Wales, this species will drop off the WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2023.

Anglesey: Three (two adults and a 2CY) Traeth Dulas, 4 Jan, presumably the same birds, then relocated on wet fields north of Llyn Maelog, 14 – 17 Jan, with immature bird 22- 26 Jan (J. Price *et al*).

Carmarthen: Five, Burry Port 5 Jan (A. Dare, R. Hunt *et al*).
One, Llanelli, 26 Jan (A. Smout, photo R. Cleobury).
Two, near WWT Penclacwydd 10 – 17 Feb (E. O'Connor *et al* photo below left).
One, Bynea, Llanelli 23 Feb (Rob Jones) presumed one of the above.
Four, WWT Penclacwydd, then flew up the River Loughor 18 Apr (B. Beck, J. Thomas).
One, WWT Penclacwydd, 10 – 14 Sept, probably since 6 Sept, (B. Beck *et al*, photo below right J. Thomas).

Ceredigion: One, Llangwyryfon 8 Jan (C. Bird).

E. Glamorgan: One, Kenfig, 19 Nov (A. Rosney, J. Western *et al*).
One, Tirfounder Wetlands 26 Apr (S. Gardner per Twitter, P. Hill, J. Owens).

Gower: Two, at Keepers Lodge Farm, Waunarlwydd 5 Jan – 18 Feb (P. Hayward, Rob Jones *et al*).
a single, presumed one of these, was seen at Swansea Vale 11 Feb & 25 Mar (A. Flannagan).
(Presumed to be the same birds that were seen over Gowerton 15 Dec 2021).
Three, Eglwys Nunydd Res., 17 Jan (G. Thoburn, C. Griffin).
One, Llansamlet, 8 Mar (E. Smitham), possibly relating to one of the Llanelli birds.
One, Frog Moor, Reynoldston, 15 Oct (J. Greatorex-Davies).

Gwent: Goldcliff 26 - 29 Mar (M. & J. Pointon).
Peterstone Gout, 3 Apr (A. Dowson).

Pembroke: One, Hook, 8 Jan (D. Ord).
Two, Castlemartin Corse 14 -15 Jan (B & A Haycock, R. Ellis *et al*).
One, Dale, 19 Jan – 1 Feb and presumed same 13 – 23 Mar (L. Hambridge *et al*).
One, Newport, 3 Nov (P. Grennard, photo on twitter).

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* *Crëyr Nos*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-1	2022
52	10	0	2	2	4	18	7	9	0	0

In Europe it occurs as a summer visitor to wetlands across continental Europe to the south of Britain and Fennoscania.

2019 **E. Glamorgan:** 2CY Hensol Lake, 1 July (C. Wickham).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* *Crëyr Porffor*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
77	5	0	3	14	15	8	8	19	2	3

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

Anglesey: RSPB Llyn Dinam 19 July (J. Cohen, I. Sims). RSPB Cors Ddyga, 3 – 23. Aug (E. Morris *et al*, photo below left by R. Jones).
Gwent: Uskmouth, 15 – 22 May (N. Chan, photos T. Chinnick, photo below right by T. Winter).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* *Boda Llwydwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1

Breeds mainly in southeast Europe and Central Asia. It winters mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia but breeding records in Finland are now regular.

Pembroke:
1CY, Skokholm 12 Sept (L. Marriner *et al*), photo right.

The previous records, both 2CY females, came from neighboring Skomer, **Pembroke** April – May 2013 and Connah's Quay, **Flint,** September 2017.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

Barcud du

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
30	0	0	0	3	3	3	5	10	3	3

Breeds throughout continental Europe, most in Spain, France and Germany, with smaller populations in all, except maritime NW Europe and Scandinavia. To E, breeds European Russia to Kazakhstan and C Siberia. Nominate race winters Africa and NW Indian subcontinent. Other races are resident or dispersive in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent, E and SE Asia and Australia.

Anglesey: Llyn Coron, 7 Aug (R. Pritchard).
Ceredigion: Nanty r Arian, 1 – 9 Aug (M. Hughes *et al*). One
Gwent: over Goldcliff Point, 2 Sept (C. Dyson).

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* *Gwybedog Gwenyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
83	5	3	1	8	11	5	14	20	14	2

Breeds in southern Europe, northwest Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. European birds' winter in the Sahel zone in West Africa. Another population is resident in southern Africa (HBW). The species is a scarce migrant visitor to Britain, usually as a spring overshoot, although some have occasionally remained to breed in England. The number of records in Britain has increased, with the annual mean in 2010-18, 73 records, almost double that of 1990-99 (White and Kehoe 2020). Sightings in Wales have mirrored this trend, although the species remains a scarce visitor here.

Anglesey: RSPB South Stack, 21 May (A. Clarke).
Pembroke: Bosherston Lakes, 11 July (L. Rey).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* *Cigydd Cefngoch*

Total 1967-2022	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
170	14	23	22	33	37	29	10	2

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe. Table above shows data from 1967 onwards, with those from 1991 assessed by WBRC.

E. Glamorgan:

1CY, Kenfig, 13 – 31 Oct (L. Evans *et al*).

Photo opposite by T. Lloyd.

Pembroke:

Male, Skomer, 18 - 20 May (per Skomer warden).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* *Cigydd Pengoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
134	6	11	24	12	12	13	14	32	7	3

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Pembroke:
Female, Castlemartin, 18 – 24 May (G. Thompson *et al*), photo right by L. Lomax. Male, Skomer, 19 - 20 May (C. Aston *et al*).
Male, Skomer, 12 July (per Skomer Warden, photo S. Davies).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* *Euryn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
225	22	4	10	37	27	51	43	25	2	4

Scarce visitor, usually as spring overshoot, from Mediterranean Europe. Breeds NW Africa throughout Europe from Mediterranean north to southern Sweden & southern Finland, Russia, Turkey & Caucasus to NW Iran. Winters equatorial & southern Africa. A scarce summer visitor to Wales, recorded in all counties and particularly in Pembrokeshire. Most of the records fall in May and June as is to be expected with a species overshooting its continental breeding areas.

Caernarfon:
Female/immature, Bardsey, 17 May (O. King, photo right).
Female/immature, trapped, Bardsey, 2 June (O. King).
Immature male, Bardsey, 4 – 6 June (E. Betteridge).
Immature male, Bardsey, 6 June, different to the above (SD Stansfield).

'Nordic' Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* *Jac-y-do Llychlyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	3	3

Individuals showing features of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:

Anglesey: Hen Borth, Cemlyn 18 Nov (T. White).
Gower: Neath, 10 Mar (D. Black).
Gwent: Brynmawr, 23 Jan (S. Williams).
The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore, the panel requests as many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

Shorelark *Eremophila alpestris* *Ehedydd y Traeth*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
293	1	1	146	29	21	75	9	9	1	1

(Horned Lark) Holarctic; breeds across the Northern Hemisphere, winter visitor to Britain, mainly *flava* which migrates SW from Northern Europe. Rare winter visitor to Wales and very occasionally on passage. Wintering flocks in the past have mainly been on the Dee Estuary but numbers decreased towards the end of the 20th Century and this species was added to the WBRC list in 1992.

Pembroke:
Skokholm 23 & 24 Apr (A. Schwartz *et al*).
Photo right by R. Brown.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* *Ehedydd Llwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
38	0	2	3	3	3	5	13	8	0	1

This migratory lark breeds in southern Europe, North Africa, Central Asia and parts of the Middle East, on open dry plains and arable fields.

Pembroke: Dale Airfield, 9 Sept (L. Gregory, photo right).

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* *Gwennol Dingoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
36	0	0	0	3	7	4	6	12	2	2

Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara. A very rare migrant to Wales with 30 accepted records. Within the UK as a whole, numbers of accepted records increased steadily during the 20th Century, particularly since 2000, resulting in this species dropping from the BBRC's list onto the WBRC's.

Caernarfon: One near Aberdaron, 19 Oct (NJ Phillips).

E. Glamorgan: Cosmeston, 26 Oct (GN Smith, photo right).

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli* *Telor Bonelli y Gorllewin*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
16	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	7	0	1

Breeds in western Europe as far east as Austria and as far north as France / Belgium. Winters along the southern edge of the Sahara.

Pembroke: 1CY+, Skomer 29 Aug (S & A Sutcliffe *et al*).

Hume's Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* *Telor Hume*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0

A very rare vagrant to Wales. Breeds in mountain forests in Mongolia, western China and the Himalayas, where it largely replaces Yellow-browed Warbler.

2016 Gower: 28-31 Oct, Rhosili (EA Hunter *et al*), photo right by Rob Jones.

The three previous records came from Strumble Head, **Pembroke** November 1993, **Caernarfon** December 2003-January 2004 and Penrhyn Bay, **Caernarfon**, November 2007.

Pallas' Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus* *Telor Pallas*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
51	0	0	0	1	7	11	11	18	1	2

A scarce migrant to Wales, which breeds in the coniferous taiga forests of southern Siberia east of the Ural Mountains and in mixed forest as far south as Mongolia. It winters in southeast China and adjacent countries. Not surprisingly, the majority of British records are from the east coast of England and Scotland. Far fewer make it to the west.

Caernarfon: One trapped, Bardsey, 24 Oct (E. Betteridge, photo below left by SD Stansfield).
Gower: One trapped, Southgate, 25 Oct (R. Dann, photo below right).

Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* *Telor Dwr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
86	1	0	2	13	15	35	15	4	0	1

Breeds locally in eastern Europe and Central Asia and undertakes an anti-clockwise migration circuit, which brings it west from its breeding areas in early autumn, and on to winter in north and tropical Africa. Global population is in serious decline.

Gwent: 1CY+, trapped & ringed Goldcliff 13 Aug (Goldcliff Ringing Group).
Photo right by L. Gregory.

Thirteenth record for Newport Wetlands Reserve.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* *Telor y Gwerni*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
32	0	1	0	2	6	4	6	9	2	2

A small population breeds in south and east England however the main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe. A rare vagrant to Wales with 30 accepted records. All records are assessed by WBRC. Within the UK numbers of records appear to be stable or showing a slight decline, with annual means declining from 53 in the 1990s to 44 in the 2010s.
Caernarfon: Bardsey, 6 June (O. King). Trapped, Bardsey, 31 Aug (E. Betteridge, SD Stansfield *et al)*.
Photo right by SD Stansfield.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta* *Telor Pêr*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
232	0	16	51	30	39	27	26	33	9	1

Breeds in open deciduous woodland and scrubby habitats in northwest Africa and western Europe and winters in Africa, south of the Sahara (HBW). In Britain it occurs more frequently in the south and west and is a scarce migrant to Wales, with almost twice as many records as Icterine Warbler, which tends to occur farther east and north.

Pembroke: Skomer, 6 – 10 Oct (C. Aston *et al*).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* *Telor Aur*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
128	0	2	20	14	26	30	16	12	6	2

This species replaces Melodious Warbler in northern and eastern Europe, and consequently occurs less frequently in Wales. It breeds in woodland from northeast France to western Siberia and north to Fennoscandia and winters in Africa south of the Sahara. It is a scarce migrant to Wales, where records increased during the second half of the 20th Century but have fallen since a peak in the 1990s. These trends mirror those for the rest of Britain, with an annual mean of 139 during 1990-99 but 78 in 2010-18 (White and Kehoe 2020).

Pembroke: Skokholm, 29 - 30 May (R. Brown, photo right). Skokholm, 1 Sept (G. Eagle).

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria* *Telor Rhesog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
116	1	2	20	6	13	18	22	29	1	4

The Barred Warbler nests in scrub and woodland across the farmed landscape in Europe, east of a line from Denmark to the Adriatic, through southern Russia and Central Asia to Mongolia. The southern edge of Fennoscandia is the northern limit of the breeding range. It winters in a fairly discrete area of east Africa, centred on Kenya. It is a scarce autumn migrant to Wales, although the number of records has increased during the last 30 years. Such a pattern has been evident across Britain, where the annual number of records was 84% higher in 2010-18 than in 1968-89 (White and Kehoe 2020b). It is believed that those found here are part of extended post-juvenile dispersal.

Caernarfon: 1CY Bardsey, 12 Sept (SD Stansfield, E. Betteridge - photo below left). 1CY Bardsey, 29 Sept (SD Stansfield). 1CY Bardsey, 22 – 23 Oct (RI Thorpe *et al*).

Pembroke: 1CY Ramsey, 6 Oct (G. Morgan), photo below right.

Siberian Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca blythii* *Llwydfron Fach*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	2

Breeds in north central Siberia and Kazakhstan.

Caernarfon: Male in song, Bardsey, 27 May (E. Betteridge, SD Stansfield).

Ceredigion: Llechryd from 29 Dec until end of January 2023 (W. James *et al*).

All confirmed by DNA analysis of feathers lost whilst ringing, by the Wildlife Forensic Genetics Laboratory at the Institute of Medical Sciences, University of Aberdeen. Collinson et al (Molecular Birding BB115, 703-714, December 2022) states that the most of Whitethroats reported October onwards in Britain and northwest Europe are in fact "Siberian". The Bardsey bird was only the second spring record in the UK of this race, the other coming from Bardsey on 16 May 2014.

Moltoni's Warbler *Curruca subalpina* *Telor Brongoch Dwyrain*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Breeds Mallorca, Corsica, Sardinia & Ligurian Apennines, Italy. Wintering area unknown.

Pembroke: 2CY+ male, trapped & ringed, Skokholm 17 – 29 May (R. Brown *et al,* photo below).

First record for Wales and the 13th for the UK. An article on its occurrence on p126.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus* *Drudwen Wridog*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
186	13	1	3	5	4	17	43	47	40	13

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Anglesey: Adult male, Llanfechnell, 9 June (S. Mayor-Owen). 2CY/female Cemaes Bay, 15 June (S. Eloise).

Caernarfon: Adult, Llandudno Junction 7 -13 June (S. Hold). Adult, Dinas Dinlle, 16 June (G. Owen).

Carmarthen: 2CY male, Abergwili, 4 & 5 June (L. Howell, photo M. Creasser).

Ceredigion: Adult, Aberaeron, 4 May (A. McCabe). Adult, Borth 5 June (D. Furby). Adult, Llangwyryfon, 6 – 13 July (G & P Coates, photo C. Bird). Adult, Teifi Marshes 2 Aug (R. Dobbins, W. James).

E. Glamorgan: Adult, Bridgend, 6 June (photo on Facebook by H. Herbie).
Adult, Cwm Bach Wetlands, 17 June (N. Wroblewski, MJ Bevan).
1CY, near Bridgend 9 Dec – 11 Feb 2023 (Mrs. A. Bruce, per County Recorder).

Pembroke: Adult, St. David's 30 June (S. Beynon).

Corrections to previous reports:

2019 Anglesey: 1CY, St. Rhwydrus Church, Cemlyn, 9 Sept – 1 Oct 2019 (not from 9 July), presumed same at Llanfaethlu 27 Feb 2020 (having been reported by residents as having been present for some three weeks) and present until 19 Mar 2020.

2018 Anglesey: 1CY Pen-y-Sarn, 5 – 9 Nov (not at Amlwch).

Photo right at Abergwilli, Carmarthen, by M. Creasser.

With so many individuals being reported in recent years, this species no longer fits WBRC criteria and will drop off WBRC list as of 1st Jan 2023.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* *Bronlas Smotyn Coch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
53	1	2	8	9	6	10	9	6	1	1

The Red-spotted subspecies breeds in northern Europe, northern Asia and Alaska and winters in north Africa and south Asia. The breeding range of this subspecies has been contracting in Fennoscandia and the eastern Baltic (European Atlas 2020). The majority of Bluethroat records in Wales, identified to subspecies, were Red-spotted. White-spotted individuals are now assessed by BBRC.

Caernarfon: Red-spotted male, *svecica*, Bardsey, 2 June (O. King), photo right.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* *Eos*

Total 1967-2022	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
126	21	39	21	26	8	8	2	1

The Nightingale breeds in a broad band across much of central and western Europe, south to northwest Africa, and east in a scattered distribution to northwest China. In Britain it is now restricted to southern and eastern England, south of a line from the Severn to the Humber. It occupies a variety of habitats, including scrub and open woodland with thickets and dense patches of vegetation. Nightingales are migratory, wintering in tropical Africa south of the Sahara.
The Nightingale is now recorded as a scarce migrant in Wales, though there have been no ringing recoveries to indicate the likely origins of passage birds. Since 1967 at least 124 individuals, including a few breeding birds, have been recorded in Wales.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 27 Apr (O. King).

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* *Cynffonlas Ystlysgoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	2

Breeding range extends through the cool temperate forests of Russia to northern Japan and northeast China, with a small but expanding population in Fennoscandia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 29 Oct (O. King), photo below left.

E. Glamorgan: Coed-y-Wenallt, Cardiff 16 – 18 Oct (G. Jenkins-Jones et al, photo below right A. Schwartz).

Previous Welsh records came from Bardsey, **Caernarfon** Oct 2007 & 2015, Skomer, **Pembroke** Oct 2010, Great Orme, **Caernarfon** Oct 2016 and Wern Ddu, Caerphilly, **E. Glamorgan** Jan-Feb 2017 and an immature/female Skokholm 11 Oct 2021.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* *Gwybedog Brongoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
184	2	9	24	29	34	21	24	34	3	4

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: 1CY Bardsey, 22 – 23 Oct (RI Thorpe), photo below left by SD Stansfield. 1CY Bardsey, trapped, 25 Oct (O. King *et al*), photo below middle. 1CY Bardsey, 27 Oct (O. King).

Pembroke: 1CY Porth Clais, 22 – 23 Oct (D. Ord *et al*, photo right).

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* *Tinwen Isabelline*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
8	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	1

Breeds in western and central Asia. Winters from north-east Africa to central India. An extremely rare vagrant to Wales with seven accepted records, all since 1997. A total of 51 UK records to end of 2019, on average one or two a year.

Caernarfon: 1CY+, Uwchmynydd 3 Nov-1 Dec (G. Jenkins-Jones, B. Porter, A. Stratford *et al*).
Photo right by M. Jones

Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* *Tinwen y Diffaethwch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
9	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	1

Breeds in North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia. Winters in North Africa, Arabia, and western India. An extremely rare vagrant to Wales with eight accepted records to date. A total of 161 UK records up to 2019, about four – five on average a year.

Gwent: 1CY+, Goldcliff 16-18 Nov (BD Thomas).

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* *Siglen Benlwyd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
19	0	0	0	3	5	5	1	3	1	1

Breeds in Fennoscandia, European Russia and northwest Siberia and winters in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia.

Pembroke: Skomer, 6 June (DJ Astins *et al*, photo right by M.Morden).

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg* *Siglen Benddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0

This subspecies breeds in southeast Europe from the Balkans to south Ukraine, in Turkey, the eastern Mediterranean area, the Arabian Peninsula to Iran and north Afghanistan. It winters in Africa from Nigeria east to Sudan and Uganda.

2021 E. Glamorgan: 2CY female, Cardiff Bay Barrage 14 May (photo and sound recording, P. Bristow, P. Howlett, GN Smith *et al*).

The four previous records were in May and came from **Pembroke** (Skomer 1986 & Marloes Mere 2013), RSPB Conwy, **Denbigh** 1998 and Cemlyn, **Anglesey** 2011.

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* *Siglen Sitraidd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	2	2

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia. A rare Asian migrant to Wales with a total of 12 accepted records. Not long ago this species was a great rarity in the UK, but numbers of records increased dramatically towards the end of the 20th Century, so much so that Citrine Wagtail dropped off the BBRC's list onto the WBRC's.

Anglesey: Female, Tyn Llan, Cemlyn, 8 May (RI Thorpe).

Gwent: 1CY, Goldcliff, 18 – 31 Aug (D. Watson, J. Wilson *et al*).

Citrine Wagtails, above at Cemlyn by S. Culley, right at Goldcliff on Twitter by J. Wilson

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* *Corhedydd Cefnwyrdd*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
6	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1

Breeds from just west of the Ural Mountains through Siberia and south to China. It winters in South and Southeast Asia. The first British record was from Skokholm, Pembroke in April 1948.

Pembroke: Skokholm 13 Nov (G. Eagle).

Of the other four records, all singles, on Skomer, **Pembroke** April 2001 & October 2002, Bardsey, **Caernarfon** October 2003 and the only mainland record was at St. Bride's, **Pembroke** October 2017.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* *Llinos Goch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
176	2	0	3	7	23	41	41	45	11	

Breeds central Europe, spring and autumn migrant to UK. Rare passage migrant to Wales with a total of 165 individuals recorded in the Principality. There has been a large increase in accepted records over the past fifty years, mirroring an increase in UK records, but numbers appear to be stable for the last thirty years (annual mean of around 150 records a year over the last three decades in the UK).

Caernarfon: 1CY male, Bardsey, 1 – 2 Oct (SD Stansfield), photo below left. 1CY /
Pembroke: female, Skokholm, 1 - 3 Oct (L. Marriner, R. Brown *et al*).
1CY / female, Porthgain, 26 Oct (S. Jones).

2019 Caernarfon: 1CY male singing, Great Orme, 2 June (photo M. Jones, R. Sandham).

Serin *Serinus serinus* *Llinos Frech*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020- 21	2022
36	4	2	1	6	3	5		3	1	1

Resident in southern Europe and France, and in the breeding season extends its range into the rest of continental Europe west of Russia.

Pembroke: Female, Skokholm, 20 May (R. Brown, G. Eagle), photo above right.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* *Bras yr Yd*

Welsh Total 2004-2022	1967-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
27	-	-	-	-	4	2	19	2

The Corn Bunting, the largest European bunting, is resident or a summer visitor across Europe except Scandinavia, in north Africa and parts of the Middle East.

Denbigh: Bettisfield 28 Apr (K. Smith), two there 22 May (RI Thorpe, photo right).

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* *Bras y Gerddi*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
185	15	12	40	15	25	32	21	22	1	2

Breeds in continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia. Winters in southern Arabia and the southern Sahara, returning in late April or early May. Decadal totals shown in the table above show that numbers of accepted individuals increased slightly towards the end of the 20th century but have declined since. This mirrors the UK trend, where annual means peaked at 72 in the 1990s, declining to 31 in the 2010s.

E. Glamorgan: 1CY Lavernock, 17 – 20 Sept (A. Bevan, GN Smith *et al*), photo right by GN Smith.

Gwent: Nocmig recording, over Tranch, Pontypool, 28 Aug (C. Constance).

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius* *Bras Ffrainc*

Total since 1970	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
15	-	-	-	1	12	0	1	0	0	1

This species in mainly of western and southern Europe and North Africa, with a small population in southwest England. Traditionally it bred in Wales but declined in the early 20th century, with the last breeding record in Gwent in 1968 (Birds of Wales 2021).

E. Glamorgan: Ty'n y Caeau, Marcross, 12 Jan – 17 Feb (T. Wright, C. Baker *et al*), photo right by Kenfig Ringing Group.

Since 1970, there was a single record at Magor, **Gwent** June 1970, a small influx into southern Wales during the winter of 1981/2, including seven at Llanybri, **Carmarthen** 27-28 Dec 1981 and five males at Burry Green, **Gower** on 24 Jan 1982 (possibly the same individuals). The only subsequent record was on Bardsey, **Caernarfon** 23 Apr 2004.

Little Bunting *Emeriza pusilla* *Bras Bychan*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
36	0	3	2	0	7	4	10	7	2	1

The Little Bunting has a broadly similar breeding range to that of Rustic Bunting, although slightly farther north through Fennoscandia and across Russia to the Pacific coast (HBW). It winters in southern China and adjacent territories.

Caernarfon: Sound recording, Bardsey, 19 Oct (O. King).

Black-headed / Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala/bruniceps* *Bras Penddu/Pengoch*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Black-headed breeds from central Italy to Greece, Turkey, northern Iraq, weatern Iran and north through the Caucasus to Ukraine and southern Russia. Winters west and central India. Red-headed breeds in west and central Asia and winters in India.

1992 Caernarfon: 1CY+ Bardsey, 19 – 24 Sept (P. Jenks, A. Leitch).

Originally accepted by BBRC as Black-headed, now after a review accepted as Black-headed / Red-headed.

Dark-eyed Junco *Junco hyemalis* *Jwnco Penddu*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1

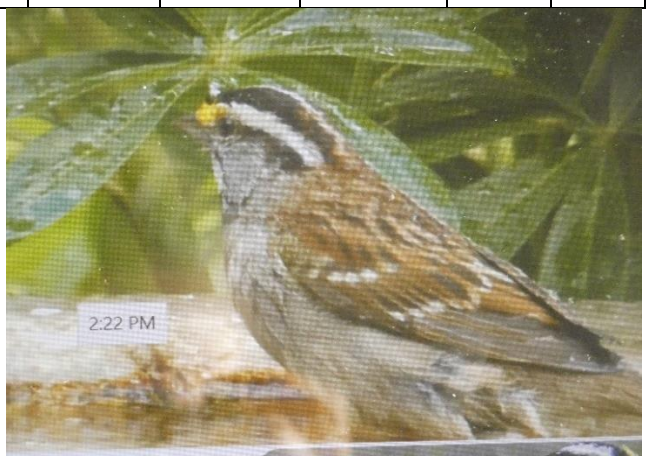
A common breeding bird of coniferous and mixed forests across much of Canada and Alaska south of the Arctic circle and more locally in the USA. In winter, it is found across the UDSA and northern Mexico.

Pembroke: 2CY+ male, in song, Musselwick, Gann, Dale 22 May (T. Fitzwalter, P. Royal *et al*), photo below D. Ord.

Previous records came from Bardsey, **Caernarfon**, 25 April – 3 May 1975, Skomer, **Pembroke,** 7-8 May 2017 and Dolgellau, **Meirionnydd**, 12 May 2017.

White-throated Sparrow *Zonotrichia albicollis* *Bras Gyddfwyn*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
5	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1



The White-throated Sparrow breeds across much of Canada, excluding the far north and west, and spends the winter in the southern USA (HBW). There were 50 records of this extremely rare trans-Atlantic vagrant in Britain to 2019 (Holt et al. 2019), with an average of one a year over the last 30 years.

E. Glamorgan: 2CY+, in a Porthcawl Garden, 25 June (video by E. Hanna per County Recorder), photo right taken from the video.

2009 at Sea: On board ship off Point Lynas, **Anglesey** 26 May (T. Brand, per County Recorder).

The three previous Welsh records were on Bardsey, **Caernarfon,** 1CY 15 Oct – 7 Nov 1970 and 11 June 2010, and at Cwrtnewydd, **Ceredigion** 24 June 2020.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina* *Telor Tennessee*

Total	Pre 1950	1950-59	1960-69	1970-79	1980-89	1990-99	2000-09	2010-19	2020-21	2022
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Breeds from Yukon across souhern Canada to Newfoundland, Minnesota, New York and Maine. Winters in Central and northern South America to Columbia, Venezuela and northern Ecuador.

Pembroke: Skokholm 12 Oct (R. Dobbins, R. Brown *et al*), photo right by R. Brown.
First for Wales and the 6th for Britain. Article on its occurrence on p127.

Records where identification was accepted, but origin is uncertain or not known to be wild

Northen Cardinal *Cardinalis cardinalis*

Resident across SW, C & E USA and E. Mexico.

Pembroke: 2CY+, Dale, 20 – 21 June (photo right by F. Marshal, per county recorder).

REINTRODUCTIONS

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* *Eryr Mor*

Widely distributed across northern Europe and Asia, from Greenland to the Pacific Ocean. European strongholds are Norway and Russia. Over 120 pairs breeding in Scotland following the reintroduction programme there. There has been a more recent project in the Isle of Wight, where released individuals carry tracking devices.

Brecon: 2CY male (G816, from Isle of Wight re-introduction scheme), Llangorse 12 Apr (S. Williams).

Denbigh: 4CY female (G318, fledged from Isle of Wight re-introduction scheme in 2019), Whixall Moss 3-5 Aug (N. Brake *et al*).

There have only been five other recent records, presumably relating to visiting birds from Scotland: Skomer, **Pembroke** 10 and 11 Nov 1993, Cors Caron, **Ceredigion** 12 Nov 1997, Dolwyddelan, **Caernarfon 28** Mar 2008, a tagged bird from the Isle of Wight over Ystrad Mynach then Rudy, **E. Glamorgan** 8 Apr 2020 and at Fedw Fawr, **Anglesey** 13 June 2021.

Common Crane *Grus grus* *Garan*

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa. Individuals from the Somerset re-introduction scheme have been reported on many occasions in South Wales since the scheme began, not just the attempted breeding in **E. Glamorgan** and **Gwent**. Due to the ever-expanding UK re-introduced population, it is impossible to distinguish genuine wild birds and therefore this species will drop off the WBRC list as of 1st January 2023. Individuals from the re-introduction scheme in 2022 included:

Gwent: Two Goldcliff, 20 May (C. Jones). One near Redwick, 25 Oct (N. Saunders)

White Stork *Ciconia Ciconia* *Ciconia Gwyn*

Migrant in warmer boreal to warm temperate zones, Russia, China and central Europe. WBRC has decided, for this year, that unringed individuals are probably wild birds, while ringed ones are not. Individuals presumed from reintroduction schemes:

E. Glamorgan: Barry, 8 Aug (A. Schwartz et al). Two over Porthcawl, 9 Aug.

Gwent: Goldcliff 3 Apr. Four at Bulwark, Chepstow, 8 Aug (roosting on a building immediately adjacent to Lidl car park (A. Davies), photo right.

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of these records were not accepted because WBRC/BBRC were not convinced, on the evidence before them, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	County	Site	Date(s)
Pectoral Sandpiper	Pembroke	Westfield Pill	19 & 22 Sept 2022
Pectoral Sandpiper	Brecon	Llangorse	19-21 July 2022
American Golden Plover	Ceredigion	Llanrhystud	Two 1CY, 9-11 Oct, with one remaining until 18 Oct 2022
Bonaparte's Gull	Caernarfon	RSPB Conwy	5 Mar 2022
Caspian Gull	Gwent	Newport	2CY, 20 Jan 2022
Caspian Gull	E. Glamorgan	Cardiff Bay	8 Nov 2022
Caspian Gull	Pembroke	Gann	Adult, 24-25 Dec 2022
Gull-billed Tern	Ceredigion	Llyn Briane	2 June 2022
Barolo Shearwater	Anglesey	Wylfa Head	28 Aug 2006
Barolo Shearwater	Anglesey	South Stack	Four on 12 Sept 1987
Barolo Shearwater	Pembroke	Strumble Head	16 Oct 1983
Barolo Shearwater	Pembroke	Strumble Head	27 Sept 1982
Glossy Ibis	Carmarthen	Towy Bridge, Carmarthen	20 Aug 2022
Pallid Harrier	Pembroke	Pen Anglas	3 Apr 2022
Pallid Harrier	Pembroke	St. David's Head	23 Oct 2022
Black-eared Kite	Radnor	Rhayader	16 Dec 2009-7 Mar 2010
Gyr Falcon	Denbigh	World's End	13 Apr 2022
Barred Warbler	Caernarfon	Bardsey	17 Aug 2022
American Robin	Caernarfon	Porthdinllean	20 Apr 2022
Iberian Wagtail	Denbigh/Caernafon	RSPB Conwy	6 May 2022
Grey-headed Wagtail	Carmarthen	WWT Penclacwydd	2 Sept 2022
Black-headed Wagtail	Ceredigion	Cors Caron	28 May 2022

APPENDIX II - List of records that were withdrawn

Species	County	Site	Date
Caspian Gull	E. Glamorgan	Cardiff Bay	21 Nov 2022

APPENDIX III - List of records that are still in BBRC/WBRC circulation

Isabelline Wheatear	Anglesey	Hen Borth, Carmel Head	30 Aug 2020
Siberian Lesser Whitethroat	Pembroke	Skokholm	23 Oct 2022
Thrush Nightingale	Caernarfon	Bardsey	2 June 2022
Ashy-headed Wagtail	Gwent	Newport Wetlands	6 May 2021

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First records for Wales in 2022

Snow Goose, 30 Jan - 2 Feb 2022 Dee Estuary, Flint - 1st record of presumed wild bird in Wales

A 2CY+ Snow goose was found feeding with Pink-footed Geese at RSPB Burton Mere on the lowland wet grassland in Flintshire on 30th Jan 2022. It remained until 2 Feb accompanying the Pink-Footed Geese, either on the grassland or out on the Dee Estuary saltmarsh in Flintshire.

Description
A typical goose in general shape and feeding actions. It was similar in body size to the Pinks, but the neck looked longer when stretched up. It was all white except for black 1° - which appeared as a line on the folded wing and was not visible in most views. The head was rounded head with a quite large pinkish bill. Eye looked small, dark and neat (beady) in large head.

Photos from Twitter by A. Wallbank.

Discussion

'Birdguides' consider this individual to be the same individual that was present with Pink-footed Goose in Lancashire during winter/spring 2022. It was present in Lancashire on 17 Jan and then again from 9 Feb and remained there until 20 April.

The status of Snow Goose in Wales has been difficult to determine due to the presence of escaped individuals and the difficulties in assessing the likelihood of individuals from the UK Category C populations reaching Wales. Snow Goose was added to Category C5 of the Welsh list in 2018, but removed and placed in Category E in 2019 (Thorpe and Stratford 2019, Thorpe and Stratford 2020).

It was considered by the WBRC to meet the BOURC and BBRC criteria for acceptance of wildfowl occurring in an apparently natural state. (Green 2023).

Note:

BOURC and BBRC have the following criteria for accepting Geese and Ducks onto the British List:

- the identification was confirmed and hybrids excluded;
- the bird showed no signs of damage to the flight feathers;
- the bird was un-ringed (unless involving a bird ringed in the wild in its native range);
- the bird did not have any aberrant plumage;
- the bird was with an appropriate carrier-species (i.e. a flock of Arctic-breeding geese);
- the bird arrived at an appropriate time of year for a vagrant and did not linger throughout the summer;
- the bird remained wary of humans.

This individual meets these criteria and is added to Category A of the Welsh List. RI Thorpe (on behalf of WBRC).

Moltoni's Warbler, 17 – 29 May 2022 Skokholm, Pembroke - 1st record in Wales

Brief views of a silent male 'Subalpine Warbler' found in the Courtyard on 17th May initially gave the impression of a Western bird, however later in-the-hand examination revealed a tail pattern more consistent with Eastern Subalpine Warbler, the white portion of the second-outermost tail feathers extending down the shaft of the inner webs. It remained in the Courtyard for the next two days, albeit silently so.

There followed a three-day lack of records, this possibly in part due to seabird monitoring commitments, but also due to occasional strong winds, rain and perhaps its preference for the Elders beyond the Green Heath Lesser Black-backed Gull colony. Somewhat surprisingly, it was retrapped in the Cottage Heligoland on the 23rd; when released it gave the fast, Wren-like trill associated with Moltoni's Warbler. Although again missing on the 24th and subsequently elusive, it was calling, and occasionally singing, in the Courtyard on each date between the 25th and 29th May; a fast and scratchy *Sylvia* song regularly incorporated the diagnostic trill.

A sizable swell finally abated by the 29th, when a successful twitch provided 29 observers with brief views and occasional snippets of song and call (along with views of a bonus Icterine Warbler). It was not seen again.

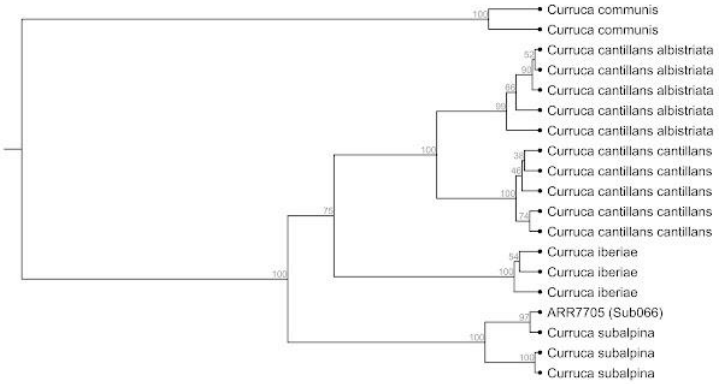
Identification

Correspondence with Tim Jones at Spurn Bird Observatory revealed that the bird was a close match for a DNA confirmed Moltoni's Warbler trapped in Sweden, which had exhibited similar salmony underparts and a more Eastern-type tail pattern (rather than the restricted white tips usually associated with this rare species of Northwest Italy, Corsica, Sardinia and the Balearics). The Wren-like trill call is diagnostic of Moltoni's and confidence was high in this being the 1st Welsh record. Confirmation of the identification was made when DNA results were received.

Photos above by R. Brown.

Professor Martin Collinson and Tereza Senfeld of the University of Aberdeen used the Mitochondrial DNA analysis of a dropped feather to confirm the identification (see phylogram right) and sound recordings made by Alan Wilkins were also submitted to the British Birds Rarities committee.

The record was accepted by the BBRC as a 2CY+ male Moltoni's Warbler.



Discussion

Although no doubt under recorded, often being lumped with other 'Subalpine Warblers' following field views of silent birds (there were 745 unidentified 'Subalpine Warbler' found to the end of 2020 (Holt *et al*., 2021)), Moltoni's Warbler is undoubtedly the rarest of the three 'Subalps'; the 2022 Skokholm bird becomes the 13th for Britain and first for Wales, with eight of the previous records coming from Scotland (including the first taken on St Kilda in 1894), three from Norfolk and one from the Isles of Scilly. As of 2022, there have been five Skokholm records of Eastern Subalpine Warbler (in May 2014, April and May 2016, May 2020 and May 2021), two of Western Subalpine Warbler (in May 2020 and July 2021) and 13 birds not identified to species level (including the first for Wales on 1st October 1953 and singles in May 2013 and May 2016).

R. Brown.

Tennessee Warbler, 12 Oct 2022 Skokholm, Pembroke - 1st record in Wales

There were only four birders left on Skokholm by 12 October, with Richard Dobbins (RD) and Luke Marriner (LM) agreeing to stay on with wardens Richard Brown (RB) and Giselle Eagle (GE) to add some extra eyes while the staff began the process of packing up the buildings for the winter. Following lunchtime showers and a classic island mist associated with a south-westerly system, I started my afternoon's birding. I had visited the back of the Wheelhouse and had just finished pushing the new Heligoland Trap when a small *Phylloscopus* type bird caught my eye as it clung to the stem of some Goldenrod. I was immediately struck by the bird's white undertail coverts as it dropped to the ground not too far from where I was stood. Two conspicuous yellow wingbars were also obvious as the bird hopped along the ground, seemingly tired.

Photos above by R. Brown.

The mantle was a vivid green, like the wings of a Bonelli's warbler, and the head pattern was reminiscent of some vireos, with a bright yellow supercilium prominent in front of the eye. All the flight feathers were tipped bright white. The view was brief, but I knew I had to get the three other birders onto this. I put the news out on the UHF radio that I had a warbler I couldn't put a name to and hung back, allowing the bird to hop in and out of view as it slowly made its way through the Goldenrod.

RB and LM soon appeared on the Knoll behind the Observatory, but their view was obscured by Goldenrod in the same way as it was for me. GE had taken up a position at the gate of the Courtyard where the views were better, and the lads ran around the back to join her. I could hear photos being taken and it was clear they were on the bird, this giving me the opportunity to loop back around and join them. Discussion was brief upon my arrival and RB mooted Tennessee Warbler as an identification, a species he and GE had only seen in the treetops of Costa Rica. I felt that he might be right but had something in the back of my mind suggesting that we should check Orange-crowned Warbler, these species that I had encountered in Canada and Costa Rica. With photographs in the bag, I decided to nip around the library and confirm the identification.

Just as I was entering the Library I was confronted by RB, LM and GE coming from the opposite direction. They had seen the bird fly low around the corner in my direction. At first it appeared as though the bird had gone missing, however a movement low in the Goldenrod revealed it was almost at their feet. Everyone froze, but this close encounter didn't last for long, the bird flying straight past me and round another corner to where those who twitched the Swainson's Thrush and Myrtle Warbler had been stood. We cautiously peeped around the corner, mindful that it could again be close, however there was no sign. We took up a position on Home Meadow where we could view the bushes from a distance, however it did not reappear.

RB put the news out as there was a weather window for a twitch the following day, however we could not relocate the bird that afternoon or the following morning. Skokholm Island is fragile, honeycombed with 100,000 seabird burrows and not suitable for large numbers of people to be searching unfamiliar terrain. In the absence of the bird, RB and GE thus took the decision to cancel the twitch. Although the Tennessee Warbler had kept low and moved in a seemingly tired way, its eyes were almost always wide, and it was not fluffed up in the manner of exhausted migrants during a fall. The bird gave remarkably close views at times, allowing a suite of distinguishing features to be well documented. A later search under the bushes towards which it had flown failed to locate any sign.

Discussion

This was the first record for Wales and only the 6th record for Britain. The first British record was on Fair Isle, Shetland 6 – 20 Sept, closely followed by another four days later on 24 Sept 1975. The other records were from Holm, Orkney 5 – 7 Sept 1982, St. Kilda, Outer Hebrides 5 – 7 Sept 1995 and Yell, Shetland 29 Sept – 7 Oct 2020.

R. Dobbins.